

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

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□ 1200

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at noon.

## PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

One God and Father of all, we ask You to renew Your spirit within us and lift up this Nation in confidence, in determination and transformative thinking.

Members of Congress are distinctly unique individuals representative of America. They are not only racially, religiously and politically different; they are personally and philosophically different, one from another, closest to their families and the people of their districts.

Yet by coming here, they are called to form one body, to guide and protect this Nation as a whole. By unfolding before their very eyes the depth and variety of human needs and by seeking a common response to economic and social concerns, may they become Your instrument to breathe hope in Your people and sustain perseverance in the historical institutions of this great Nation, both now and forever. Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PAULSEN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## AIRSPACE REDESIGN OVER CONNECTICUT, NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the FAA's redesign of the

airspace over Connecticut, New York and New Jersey. Plans for this redesign have moved forward, certainly in my district, without proper and appropriate input from the stakeholders and from my constituents affected by this move.

Planes are being rerouted to fly over southwestern Connecticut upon descent into New York's airports, and my constituents have been subjected to unnecessary and unprecedented levels of noise in their homes and places of business. A day does not go by that I don't hear this concern from my constituents.

Later this week I will be submitting an amendment along with my colleagues Congressman SESTAK and Congressman ENGEL during floor consideration of H.R. 915, the FAA reauthorization bill. This amendment will call simply for a cost-benefit analysis to be performed before the redesign proceeds any further.

The amendment will require the cost-benefit analysis to take into account direct costs as well as the indirect costs of alleviating the noise that so affects my constituents.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment to the FAA reauthorization bill.

## MEDICAL RIGHTS ACT

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, many are concerned about waiting lines that would come with a government health care program, and their fears are well-founded. Canada and Europe restrict care for patients, especially the elderly.

The President has outlined three principles for his bill: lower cost, choice and access. I support these goals; and to back them, the President should also endorse the Medical Rights Act.

Congressman DENT and I will introduce the Medical Rights Act tomorrow. Our legislation is founded on this: The Congress should make no law that blocks the decisions of American patients made with their doctor.

If patients are our prime focus, then their rights should be protected in law. If we do not enact the Medical Rights Act, patients will be at risk when the government denies care, as routinely happens in Canada.

Once denied government care, many Canadians find doctors in America. If Congress orders the government to take over America's health care system, then where will we be able to drive once denied from a government health care system?

To prevent the mistakes of Canada and Britain, Congress should enact the Medical Rights Act.

## REDUCING THE DEFICIT

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, Congress and the President continue to work together to strengthen our economy and begin the process of reducing the mountain the debt that has accumulated over the past 8 years.

We enacted a budget that reduces the deficit by two-thirds over the next 4 years and by hundreds of billions over the next year alone. We made the necessary hard choices to dig our way out of the hole we inherited by eliminating programs that don't work and holding government contractors accountable for every penny they spend.

We are addressing the issues that are driving our long-term deficit. By making health care more affordable for every American, reducing our dependence on foreign oil, and improving our education system to be more globally competitive, we're taking the necessary steps today to ensure that we correct the fiscal mistakes of the past and don't just send the bill along to future generations.

## CLOSING AUTOMOBILE DEALERSHIPS

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, recently the President's automobile task force eliminated more than 3,000 Chrysler and GM dealerships nationwide. These dealerships are small businesses with an average of 52 good-paying jobs each.

So the actions by the Federal Government, not the private auto industry, just put over 150,000 people out of work with the wave of a government wand. Most troubling is that the government's decision on which dealers would close appears to be arbitrary, and the reasons are not being shared with the public.

In my district, a long-time local dealer, Bill Mason's Chrysler Jeep in Excelsior, was given 30 days by the President's auto task force to shut its doors. Thirty days. It didn't matter that he built the business, owns the land and provides good-paying jobs.

Mr. Speaker, it is wrong to let Washington bureaucrats pick winners and losers without public notice at the expense of thousands of jobs.

## RESTORING FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, Democrats have been committed to fiscal responsibility since taking control of the House in 2007. The President's budget calls for health care reform, job creation, a clean environment, energy efficiency, and college affordability to be completely deficit neutral.